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Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 71/235, provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since the issuance of the previous report (A/71/347) in implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and in strengthening UN-Habitat.

The report contains a summary of activities undertaken by UN-Habitat during the reporting period at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, including during the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. It presents an overview of the programme's seven subprogrammes and cross-cutting issues.

The report also provides a description of preparations for and the convening of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), including on the outcomes of Habitat III.

Furthermore, the report presents a number of conclusions and recommendations relating to the New Urban Agenda and the implementation thereof.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 71/235 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including an overview of preparations for and the convening of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

II. Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: work of the Governing Council and its intersessional and subsidiary bodies

2. The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat was held in Nairobi from 8 to 12 May 2017, on the theme, "Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda". The sub-themes were: (a) promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing; (b) integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization; and (c) synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization. That session of the Council, the first following the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, provided an opportunity to build upon the achievements of Habitat III, by recognizing the key role of national governments at the country level, while highlighting the importance of empowering local governments and other stakeholders to participate in the process.

3. During the session of the Governing Council, UN-Habitat coordinated a series of key knowledge-sharing events, including a session of the dialogue on promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing. Those events contributed to forging broad-based partnerships with the governments of Ethiopia, Germany, Morocco and Singapore to share best practices on affordable housing programmes. Following a high-level meeting of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda through the participatory slum-upgrading programme, which was also held during the session of the Governing Council, 22 new countries sought technical support for participatory slum upgrading.

4. The Governing Council also adopted nine resolutions:

(a) Resolution 26/1: United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform and extension of the mandate of the working group on programme and budget;

(b) Resolution 26/2: Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response;

(c) Resolution 26/3: Revised strategic plan for 2014-2019 and work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2018-2019;

(d) Resolution 26/4: Promoting safety in cities and human settlements;

(e) Resolution 26/5: Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development by regional consultative structures;

(f) Resolution 26/6: World Urban Forum;

(g) Resolution 26/7: Accreditation;

(h) Resolution 26/8: Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda;

(i) Resolution 26/9: Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Working group on programme and budget

5. The working group on programme and budget was established in 2015 through General Assembly resolution 68/239. The working group consists of 15 Member States, with three Member States from each of the five regional groups with the role of chair being rotated among the members of each group. Participation in the meetings of the working group has been, and continues to be, open to all Member States.

6. During the reporting period, the working group held two formal meetings (in October 2016 and February 2017) and three informal meetings (in August and October 2016 and January 2017). The working group has covered topics such as audits and evaluations, financial management, risk management, resource mobilization and regional and national strategies, as well as the business transformation of UN-Habitat.

7. In May 2017, the mandate of the working group was extended for two years by the Governing Council, in its resolution 26/1, adopted at its twenty-sixth session (see above).

III. Update on financial developments

8. Projections for core income for the biennium 2016-2017 stand at $50.0 million for non-earmarked income and $320.0 million for earmarked income. As at 31 May 2017, non-earmarked income received and confirmed pledges amounted to $43.4 million (or 87 per cent of the projection), while $265.4 million (or 83 per cent of the projection) had been recorded in earmarked income, according to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

9. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to implement a strengthened resource mobilization strategy aimed at widening its donor base to include emerging economy countries and to expand its earmarked project portfolio, including through regional resource mobilization action plans. UN-Habitat continued its participation in the United Nations-wide risk treatment working group focusing on enhancing income from voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

10. The streamlining of full-cost recovery continued, in line with the principles outlined by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/226, in order to enable more accurate attribution of costs to projects, resulting in a more accurate attribution of $2.5 million to earmarked projects in 2016, thus reducing the subsidization of earmarked projects by core funds. The streamlining of cost recovery in the enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, and of organizational procedures, is being finalized to ensure that cost recovery is incorporated into the budgets and cost plans of every project.

11. UN-Habitat continued to control core expenditure through a wide range of measures, including the maintenance of low levels of travel costs, the limitation of new recruitment for core-funded posts to critical positions, a closer alignment of expenditure with projected income and a more flexible allocation of staff. Those measures resulted in the reduction of the deficit from $5.5 million in 2015 to $2.1 million in 2016.

IV. Activities at the global level

A. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

12. UN-Habitat continued to participate actively in a number of processes in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Acknowledging that it would not be possible to monitor all the cities of every country in its progress towards the Goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat has focused on developing a "national sample of cities" approach for global monitoring (see para. 55, on the City Prosperity Initiative).

13. UN-Habitat also coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities and development partners on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and for other Goals with an urban development dimension. Through a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, it created a simplified concept for applying the national sample of cities, as well as a work plan and strategy to transform tier III indicators into tier II indicators, as part of the refinement process of indicators as suggested and requested by the Statistical Commission in 2016 (see E/CN.3/2017/2). UN-Habitat also organized an expert group meeting bringing together key experts in solid waste management to discuss and make recommendations for further refinement of indicator 11.6.1 (percentage of urban waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge). UN-Habitat has coordinated the development of indicators 11.1.1 and 11.c.1, as well as the setting of corresponding national targets. A high-level expert group meeting was held in June 2017 to discuss and refine the scope and definition of the metadata for target 11.1.c.

14. UN-Habitat continued to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization to develop a global framework for monitoring progress on the targets of Goal 6, under the umbrella of UN-Water. In 2014, UN-Habitat, UNEP and WHO, as lead agencies, established the Global Expanded Water Monitoring Initiative, which has developed monitoring methodologies that are currently being piloted in seven proof-of-concept countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Uganda.

B. World Habitat Day and World Cities Day

15. World Habitat Day 2016 was celebrated on 3 October under the theme "Housing at the centre" and the global celebration was held in Chad. World Cities Day 2016 was celebrated on 31 October 2016, under the theme "Inclusive cities, shared development". The global observance of World Cities Day was held in Quito, a few days after the conclusion of the Habitat III conference and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

C. World Urban Campaign

16. The World Urban Campaign, a global advocacy and partnership platform on sustainable urbanization convened and coordinated by UN-Habitat, is instrumental in promoting urban issues and solutions through multiple networks and constituencies. In advance of Habitat III, the campaign engaged stakeholders through a series of "urban thinkers' campuses", guided by a report entitled "The city

we need", a consensus document containing principles, drivers of changes and solutions. Following the first round of campuses, which engaged 7,800 people in 2016, some 22,000 stakeholders will be called upon, from March to December 2017, to start implementing the New Urban Agenda through action-driven commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Goal 11.

D. Other partnership activities

17. UN-Habitat continued to engage partners in normative, operational and advocacy activities, primarily through multi-stakeholder, issue-based networks and through general and strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships with national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, professionals, grass-roots organizations and women and youth organizations, among others. UN-Habitat also worked in partnership with various UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies at global, regional and local levels.

18. Following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and its commitment to inclusion, innovation and integration, UN-Habitat established the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which outlines the essential components required for effective sustainable urban development. The framework includes 35 key elements, grouped across five categories: (a) national urban policies; (b) urban legislation, rules and regulations; (c) urban planning and design; (d) urban economy and municipal finance: and (e) local implementation. Cutting across all elements are the principles of participation and governance.

19. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat worked closely with local government groups, including the United Cities and Local Governments, in developing a global platform of implementing partners on public space, tools, policy guidance and accompanying regional strategies for the implementation thereof. UN-Habitat strengthened its links with United Cities and Local Governments and its commissions and regional associations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, North America and the Mediterranean region through capacity-building sessions, workshops and city-to-city exchanges to enhance local governments' management capacities to achieve sustainable development. As an active member of the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance, in 2016, UN-Habitat collaborated with that Working Group on the overarching agenda of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through the exchange of strategies, technical know-how and new ideas regarding sustainable local development financing, decentralized local governance and urban and territorial governance.

V. Activities at the regional level

A. Cooperation with regional organizations

20. UN-Habitat has strengthened the role of its regional offices as interlocutors of regional and subregional bodies, including support to regional ministerial conferences in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, towards the greater regional integration of national urban and housing policies.

21. In Africa, UN-Habitat continued working with the Regional Coordination Mechanism facilitated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union, as well as supporting the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (into

which the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development has been integrated).

22. UN-Habitat continued to work closely with national and local authorities and the League of Arab States through its Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction, as well as with other regional networks of partners engaged in urban development to bring peace, safety and prosperity to the Arab States region. The League of Arab States played an active role in the adoption of the "Arab Quito Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development" at Habitat III. That Declaration emphasized the commitment by Arab countries and governments to addressing sustainable urbanization in the Arab region and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the region. Further, the League of Arab States also endorsed a concept proposal, entitled "Towards an Arab urban agenda", as a step by-step implementation guide for the adaptation of the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region.

23. The sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Urban Development held in New Delhi, from 14 to 16 December 2016, was the first major regional meeting following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. Ministers responsible for housing and urban development in the Asia-Pacific region endorsed the New Delhi Declaration and Implementation Plan, outlining the way forward for countries in the region to implement the New Urban Agenda. The standing working groups on planning, upgrading, basic services, finance and resilience each looked at the scope covered to date and reframed their working programmes in order to better reflect the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda.

24. A meeting of the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Buenos Aires, from 21 to 23 June 2017. Discussions at the meeting centred on the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a means to support the intergovernmental dialogue on the New Urban Agenda. In the final declaration, the participants recognized the role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting urban development in the region and endorsed the action framework.

B. Regional State of Cities reports

25. The English language version of the *State of European Cities 2016: Cities leading the way to a better future* was launched on 12 October 2016 during the European Week of Regions and Cities, in Brussels, and was presented at Habitat III. The report was prepared jointly by the European Commission and UN-Habitat.

26. UN-Habitat is finalizing the *State of African Cities 2018: The geography of African investment*. The second phase of research for the report has been completed and a compiled draft was discussed during an advisory board meeting held on 17 and 18 May 2017, in Nairobi. The launch of both the English and French versions of the report is envisaged for October 2017.

VI. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

27. The work of UN-Habitat on matters regarding urban legislation, land and governance supports Member States by providing the foundation necessary for the achievement of sustainable urbanization. Effective local government and land

management in a rules-based system and an environment that is safe for social and economic activity are prerequisites for all other forms of intervention. UN-Habitat continued to participate as a member of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, and has initiated a rule of law-based analysis of the urban aspects of the 2030 Agenda and of the New Urban Agenda. The UN-Habitat database of urban law, *Urban Lex*, now contains more than 1,000 legal instruments from more than 60 Member States and its partnership for the comparative analysis of urban law undertook research and training activities in three regions during the reporting period.

28. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance and training to seven Member States in the preparation, formulation or review of primary and secondary legislation, predominantly aimed at addressing spatial planning and related matters. UN-Habitat has provided training for national and local government officials, United Nations staff and other partners on land-based finance, land readjustment, fit-for-purpose land administration and pro-poor land records in four regions.

29. UN-Habitat has collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other partners to prevent corruption and increase transparency in urban development through the urban global-local accountability support system initiative (known as Urban GLASS). Eleven local and regional networks signed the "Paris statement" on the occasion of an event to mark International Anti-Corruption Day, held in Paris on 9 December 2016.

30. In order to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with support from a broad coalition of partners, UN-Habitat has completed a draft set of guidelines to assist Member States in the implementation of effective crime prevention strategies at the municipal and national levels.

31. As a follow-up to Habitat III, UN-Habitat has convened a global partnership initiative, in the context of the Safer Cities programme, that reviews and supports the implementation of the guidelines on Safer Cities and related initiatives.

B. Urban planning and design

32. In October, 2016, UN-Habitat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Cities Alliance Initiative launched a global national urban policy programme, a new initiative to support governments in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through national urban policy. As a sign of its commitment to the programme, the Government of the Republic of Korea pledged to support the development of national urban policies in the three pilot countries (Myanmar, Nigeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran). The national urban policy process is at the initial phase in several countries in collaboration with national authorities (Argentina, Cuba, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia,) and is ongoing in Angola, Cameroon, Egypt and Zambia. National urban policies are being drafted in Liberia and the Philippines, while capacity is being developed in Chad, Ghana and Iraq. Colombia, Mozambique and South Africa have adopted spatial frameworks at the metropolitan level.

33. The Second International Conference on National Urban Policy was co-hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and UN-Habitat in Paris, from 15 to 18 May 2017. The Conference reviewed progress made on developing and implementing national urban policies to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, attracting more than 350 participants from over 30 international organizations, 14 ministers,

9 mayors and regional representatives, including 141 speakers and representatives from more than 80 countries. In addition, UN-Habitat has already been supporting the preparation of an assessment report on national urban policies in five Arab States (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan), to be released in 2017.

34. Another initiative launched since Habitat III is the urban-rural linkages network. The network was created to focus on advocacy and information-sharing and support national and local governments in elaborating guidelines and tools for strengthening urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development, as well as to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning. Institutions that have shown interest in participating in the initiative include the Cities Alliance Initiative, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Institute for Environment and Development and United Cities and Local Governments.

35. The process relating to the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2015, was bolstered in October 2016 by the announcement by Japan of an international platform to support the guidelines and share related knowledge. The Government of Japan is to host the first international symposium on urban and territorial planning in the city of Fukuoka, in October 2018.

36. The Urban Planning and Design Lab project, established in 2014 to promptly respond to the requests of national and local governments with concrete and implementable planning proposals, has continued its activities. UN-Habitat supports 39 cities in their sustainable urban planning efforts and some 14 local urban planning and design labs have been set up worldwide. During the reporting period, the Lab organized four expert group meetings on topics including urban infill and densification, methods for urban labs and large-scale urban transformation. In October 2016, the Lab presented a publication on its experience and methodology, entitled "Urban Planning and Design Labs: tools for integrated and participatory urban planning", which will serve as a reference for the global network of urban planning and design labs.

37. Separately, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and under the overall coordination of the humanitarian response in Kenya, UN-Habitat finalized the spatial planning component of the new settlement supporting the integration of over 60,000 refugees and the host community in Kalobeyei (Turkana County, Kenya).

38. UN-Habitat continued to implement its global public space programme, launching a tool for the city-wide assessment of open public spaces, designed to provide local governments with information on the quality and quantity of public spaces in their territory. This is in line with target 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in support the development of city-wide strategies to expand safe, accessible and inclusive green and public spaces for all. In collaboration with the Asia-Pacific section of United Cities and Local Governments, a policy guideline on public spaces to help city leaders integrate public space in sustainable urban development was launched. Initiatives on public space were completed in nine cities: Jeevanje Gardens (Nairobi); Dey Pukhu (Kirtipur, Nepal); Lotus Garden (Mumbai, India); Place de la Paix (Haiti); Medellín (Colombia); Buenos Aires; Quito; and Surabaya and Sidoarjo (Indonesia). China and the Russian Federation are embarking on national public space programmes and a regional strategy on public space has been developed for the Arab States.

C. Urban economy and municipal finance

39. UN-Habitat has provided advisory and capacity-building support to urban authorities to improve their revenue-generating capacity. In Somalia, improved financial management systems were established in 15 districts. An automated municipal finance management system introduced in the district authorities contributed to improving municipal revenue generation, transparency, accountability and financial management procedures. In Afghanistan, improved methods of land surveying and registration, and tax invoicing and collection, have resulted in a 15 per cent increase in revenue in Herat, Mazar-e Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar. In Kenya, a revenue enhancement project in Kiambu County has laid the foundation for improving its municipal finance and fostering inclusive economic development. In addition, the government of Homa Bay County in Kenya, and the municipalities of Croix-des-Bouquets, Cabaret and Thomazeau, in Haiti, have been provided with advisory and technical support to improve their revenue-generating capacity.

40. The capacity of partner cities to adopt urban strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth was also enhanced during the reporting period. The cities of Bogota; Silay City and Cagayan de Oro, the Philippines; Akure, Nigeria; Kisumu, Kalobeyei Ward in Turkana West Sub-County, Homabay County and Kiambu County, Kenya; Al 'Alamayn, Egypt; Croix-des-Bouquets, Cabaret and Thomazeau municipalities, Haiti; and Nampula, Mozambique, provided mutual assistance, through partnerships, in preparing local economic development plans based on local economy assessments.

D. Housing and slum upgrading

41. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to play a leading role in leveraging political commitment towards promoting access to adequate housing and strengthening the normative framework for housing policy formulation and implementation. This has contributed toward the necessary conditions for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

42. Under the Global Housing Strategy, UN-Habitat continued supporting Governments through the provision of policy advice and technical assistance to formulate and implement policies for the supply of adequate, affordable and sustainable housing. In Myanmar, UN-Habitat assisted in the elaboration of a national housing strategy, the first since the 2015 national elections. In Sri Lanka, a new national housing policy was submitted for approval by the government, with support from UN-Habitat. In Afghanistan, a national housing profile was launched, the first comprehensive assessment of Afghanistan's housing sector, providing an evidence base for the formulation of Afghanistan's first housing policy and national housing programme. In Mozambique, a national housing strategy has been elaborated and a request has been made for UN-Habitat to continue assisting in the elaboration of a national housing profile. In Zambia, following the approval of a national housing policy, an implementation strategy has been formulated and aligned with the priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat is also supporting the Government of India in formulating a new national urban housing and habitat policy.

43. Through the participatory slum-upgrading programme, UN-Habitat conducted a joint workshop with the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States in order to sensitize 79 Member States regarding the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in particular its focus on reducing urban inequalities and fostering gender equality, human health and well-being, as well as more resilience and the

contributions of more inclusive and sustainable economic growth for ending urban poverty. The workshop was hosted by the secretariat in Brussels.

44. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat started its work on a new project on pro-poor planning of climate resilience in marginalized neighbourhoods, in Montego Bay, Jamaica and Bamenda, Cameroon. Those two cities identified several challenges related to climate resilience building in their citywide slum-upgrading strategies. Activities undertaken with the local government and communities started by identifying climate hot spots and strategic interventions for slums that will now be prepared for upgrading.

45. UN-Habitat continued its provision of support to national governments in promoting affordable and sustainable housing practices through knowledge generation and the development of technical tools for green buildings. In a report entitled "Building sustainability assessment and benchmarking: an introduction", UN-Habitat has identified opportunities for and barriers to building sustainability assessment and benchmarking schemes, as a contribution towards implementing and monitoring the New Urban Agenda. In addition, in the framework of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its subprogramme on sustainable buildings and construction, and in collaboration with a large number of international partners, UN-Habitat launched the beta version of the sustainable housing design tool, known as SHERPA, which aims to establish global guidelines and standards for green buildings.

E. Urban basic services

46. UN-Habitat joined the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, launched at Habitat III by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The Initiative is aimed at providing the framework for more joint efforts towards sustainable mobility and envisions investments of up to 1.2 billion euro to be mobilized for urban mobility infrastructure and pilot projects, as well as capacity-building for urban leaders. Following the establishment of that collaborative effort, UN-Habitat has been working with the Ministry on capacity-building initiatives to promote sustainable urban mobility.

47. UN-Habitat contributed to the preparations for the first Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, which was held in Ashgabat, on 26 and 27 November 2016, notably through the preparation of a concept paper that highlighted the urban mobility aspects of the New Urban Agenda. In addition, as regards road transport, in collaboration with the International Road Transport Union, a high-level group to devise a road map was launched at a workshop held in the United Nations Office at Nairobi, on 24 November 2016. The high-level group is tasked with devising a road map for boosting collective passenger transport in East African cities.

48. At the Habitat III Conference, UN-Habitat established an Urban Waters Hub together with the Global Water Partnership, International Water Management Institute, World Water Council, International Water Association, Stockholm International Water Institute, Akvo and the University of South Florida. The Hub is a network of partners with a common objective of improving urban water management aspects, as part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to co-chair the Global Wastewater Initiative, a voluntary multi-stakeholder platform comprising United Nations entities, international organizations, Governments, scientists and the private sector. Its aim is to facilitate coordinated action to tackle the wastewater challenge and promote the wastewater agenda.

49. UN-Habitat showcased its achievements in waste management at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Nairobi, in August 2016. As part of the Conference, UN-Habitat co-organized a seminar on waste management in Africa with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNEP, the United Nations Office for Project Services and Nairobi City County. As a follow-up to the joint seminar on waste management held during the conference, UN-Habitat partnered with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNEP to establish the African Clean Cities Platform, which has the following objectives: (a) knowledge-sharing and networking; (b) the promotion of efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets on waste management; and (c) the promotion of investment in waste management in Africa.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

50. The urban resilience programme of UN-Habitat provided capacity development tools and generated evidence-based and practical guidance for action on urban resilience as part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. In May 2017, during the Summit of Local and Regional Governments, within the framework of the Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Habitat launched a city resilience profiling tool. The tool forms part of a unique methodology that provides the framework and process steps needed to diagnose the level of urban resilience in a given city and to generate actions for resilience in the form of recommendations and plans for cities to follow, while supporting the implementation thereof at the local level.

51. Through the city resilience profiling programme, UN-Habitat partnered with a number of local and regional governments in supporting their development of strategic resilience plans. In 2016, the cities of Asunción, Maputo, and Yakutsk (Russian Federation) all began development of their resilience plans, for implementation in 2017-2018.

52. In 2017, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises secretariat, hosted by UN-Habitat, was established. The Alliance is a broad-based partnership including both United Nations and non-United Nations entities in support of the urban resilience programme. The Alliance responds to humanitarian crises in cities by building linkages between humanitarian and development actors and deploying urban planners at the very beginning of crisis response.

53. In March 2017, UN-Habitat published *Trends in Urban Resilience 2017*. As one of the first publications to take stock of urban resilience efforts globally under the framework of five major intergovernmental agendas — the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — while also addressing the conclusions of the World Humanitarian Summit, it allows readers to track trends in urban resilience that can potentially help bring together the development and humanitarian domains by showing commonalities and taking stock of the gaps.

G. Research and capacity development

54. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, in close cooperation with various United Nations entities (UNESCO, WHO, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme), prepared a global monitoring framework for the urban components of the 2030 Agenda, in order to assist countries and cities in defining national targets, including specific benchmarks and standards for the implementation of the Goals, in particular Goal 11.

55. One of the primary tools of that framework, known as the City Prosperity Initiative, provides a single platform for monitoring progress in the achievement of the Goals and the New Urban Agenda, thus eliminating potential duplication. Its composite index, covering six dimensions, serves to define targets and goals to support the formulation of evidence-based policies, including the definition of measurable, long-term plans. Seven expert group meetings were organized in key urban thematic areas, to bring together various partners, including universities, research centres, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in working towards the refinement of techniques, approaches and metrics for data collection and analysis and use of information, particularly for those with a spatial component. The Initiative has been applied in more than 400 cities, in countries as diverse as China, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

56. Separately, UN-Habitat has created and proposed a United Nations system-wide method for monitoring and reporting on urban indicators using a unified national sample of cities, aimed at enabling countries to aggregate values at the national level to ensure consistency in the analysis, comparability in results, the proper evaluation of progress, uniformity in reporting and stronger links to national policies, using the same set of cities over time. The method of aggregation is being tested in Botswana, Colombia, Mexico and Tunisia, using a seed grant received from United Nations central funds. Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Swaziland and Zambia have expressed interest in adopting that working method.

57. In close collaboration with New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, UN-Habitat has produced a global sample of cities to illustrate global aggregates of selected indicators, which assist in the monitoring and reporting of the 2030 Agenda. The global sample was instrumental in the preparation of data for the 2016 and 2017 reports of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals.

58. UN-Habitat continued to design capacity-building programmes to support the implementation and monitoring of and reporting on the work towards the Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Specific tools and guidelines are being created, while training courses, in the form of knowledge exchange workshops, peer-to-peer learning and tailor-made workshops, are organized in close collaboration with the regional commissions (ECA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and associations of cities.

H. Cross-cutting issues

59. UN-Habitat has identified four cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed in its operational and normative work: gender equality, climate change, youth and human rights. For each issue, a project formulation marker has been developed, in order to

assess mainstreaming at the inception stage of project development. The system of markers works to ensure that the issues are all mainstreamed throughout the programmes and projects of UN-Habitat. The respective teams for each of those four issues engage in joint project review, capacity-building, knowledge management and reporting.

1. Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

60. In December 2016, UN-Habitat began the process of gender resource expense tracking, as part of meeting the requirements of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. For 2016, UN-Habitat project funds directed towards projects centred on gender equality and the empowerment of women amounted to $219,884.

61. UN-Habitat, with the Habitat III secretariat, hosted a cross-cutting expert group meeting, after the conference, on the theme of "Engendering national urban policies for successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda." The meeting produced a strong dialogue on the importance of gender-responsive national urban policies and will produce a publication on how to use such policies to empower women. At the twenty-sixth session of its Governing Council, in May 2017, UN-Habitat hosted a gender forum, which brought together diverse groups of women to discuss urban issues and raise awareness of the distinct challenges that women face in cities.

62. UN-Habitat has also developed a gender lens as part of its city resilience profiling programme. Applying that lens ensures that the resilience profiling of cities is gender-sensitive and takes into account the unique impact that disasters have on women and girls, and how local and national authorities can best respond thereto.

63. In terms of its internal programming, in 2016, UN-Habitat strengthened its integration of climate change through the systematic review and scoring of proposed project documents and concept notes according to a climate change marker. In December 2016, UN-Habitat adopted a new environmental and social safeguards system, which will equally be applied to all UN-Habitat programmes and projects.

2. Climate change

64. The New Urban Agenda includes over 20 calls to address climate change in urban areas. A complementary policy note and thematic guide on addressing climate change in national urban policy offers policymakers 16 recommendations for ensuring that urban policies empower local authorities to take climate action.

65. By the end of 2016, the number of mayors committed to taking climate action under the Compact of Mayors had grown from 320 (at the end of 2015) to 605, representing roughly 446 million inhabitants. Following a merger of the Compact of Mayors with the European Commission's Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was launched on 1 January 2017. UN-Habitat has a seat on the Founders' Council of that group. Meanwhile UN-Habitat is assisting two cities (Nacala, Mozambique, and Moroni), whose mayors announced their intentions to comply with the Compact, in meeting their commitments.

66. UN-Habitat supported the Government of Belize and Belmopan City Council in developing a new climate-proof master plan for the city. In the Canaan/Onaville resettlement site in Haiti, UN-Habitat has not only provided comprehensive urban planning support but also contributed concrete plans for adapting to climate change through flood reduction measures, which are already partly being implemented

through infrastructure works funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

67. The first UN-Habitat project funded by the Adaptation Fund was launched in Lao People's Democratic Republic. The project will strengthen climate resilience in scores of villages in one of the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the country. As at the end of 2016, the Adaptation Fund had approved concept proposals for Fiji and the Solomon Islands, and pre-concept notes for southern Africa (Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique).

3. Youth

68. Considerable progress has been made towards improving the capacity of partner cities to adopt urban policies and programmes that are supportive of increased employment, livelihoods and opportunities for youth, women and disadvantaged groups.

69. Building from its initial base of four centres in East Africa, the "One stop youth resources centre" model has been scaled up and deepened in a number of areas, including in Rwanda. The centres exist in urban centres to allow young people to be trained in information and communications technology, entrepreneurship, business incubation skills and employment generation. The centres also strengthen the capacity of cities to engage youth in local decision-making and city development strategies. New post-conflict centres have been established in Mogadishu and the Mathare slum in Nairobi. The "One stop" centres serve as a model on how to create public space in urban slums.

70. The "Innovate Africa" programme has been developed with Ericsson and Samsung and local governments in Kenya. The "Innovate Kenya" programme, part of the overall programme, promotes the development of urban innovation and solutions by Kenyan youth through an innovation process that solves local government issues related to public transport, space and housing. Through the programme, youth worked with Kiambu County government in Kenya to develop a web and mobile, known as Mat Q, for automating the management of matatu (local bus) terminals. The application has improved efficiency for the drivers and revenue collection for the county government. The programme is now into its second phase, engaging three local governments in Kenya.

4. Human rights

71. The New Urban Agenda uses strong rights-based language and focuses on the need to promote cities that benefit all, with women, youth and people with disabilities highlighted, in particular, as priority groups. UN-Habitat also promoted the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind through its work, towards the achievement of Goals 5, 10 and 11.

72. Human rights mainstreaming activities focused on the capacity-building of staff and partners to use the human rights-based approach in project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in order to strengthen the effective integration of human rights into the UN-Habitat project cycle and spur the development of tools that guide a human rights-based approach in all UN-Habitat activities. In the framework of the Global Housing Strategy and the participatory slum upgrading programme, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance on implementing a human rights-based approach to partners in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Cameroon, Zambia, Ghana, Guyana, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

73. UN-Habitat strengthened its partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, under the framework of the "Mediterranean City-

to-City Migration Project", co-led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and United Cities and Local Governments, with UNHCR as an associate partner, focused on strengthening migration governance in the Mediterranean region. Three pilot projects are currently being implemented with the municipalities of Amman, Beirut and Tunis, to support partner Southern Mediterranean cities in taking concrete actions towards improved migration governance.

74. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued the work of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The programme focuses on assisting States and other stakeholders with the implementation of their commitments under the Habitat Agenda to ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. A joint publication was produced that demonstrated best practices in relocation, provided alternatives to forced evictions and guidelines for eviction impact assessments before, during and after evictions.

75. UN-Habitat continued its partnership and collaboration with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in exploring the advances and challenges faced by indigenous peoples. At a workshop held in Nairobi, UN-Habitat advocated for national and local decision makers to ensure that indigenous communities' rights are taken into account for the development of policies and programmes. UN-Habitat continued assisting national and local governments in adopting and enforcing non-discriminatory policies in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, so as to ensure the collection of data disaggregated by disability for proper evidence-based policies and programmes, facilitate access to economic resources and opportunities and encourage the adoption of adequate building codes.

VII. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

76. The New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, in October 2016. In September 2016, Member States had agreed on the draft outcome document, during the final intergovernmental, informal negotiations held in New York, after the third session of the Preparatory Committee, which was held in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 July 2016.

77. The agreement on the draft outcome document, one month before its adoption at the Conference, allowed the more than 30,000 participants and 167 country delegations at Habitat III to start focusing on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Conference provided a space and opportunities to create new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of sustainable urban development.

78. After the conclusion of the Conference, all Member States endorsed the New Urban Agenda and committed to work together towards a paradigm shift in the way that cities are planned, built and managed, by adopting a resolution thereon during the seventy-first session of General Assembly, in December 2016 (resolution 71/256). Subsequent to its adoption and endorsement, the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is now crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals and the Paris Agreement, as well as other global frameworks.

79. The preparatory process for Habitat III followed an innovative and inclusive approach, focusing not only on the outcome of the Conference but, more

importantly, on the process and the legacy of the Conference. A number of initiatives launched during that process, at the Conference itself and as the legacy demonstrate the innovative and inclusive nature of Habitat III.

A. Conference of 30,000 voices

80. Habitat III had the largest participation of civil society, stakeholders and local authorities in the history of United Nations conferences. That success was based on an inclusive and participatory preparatory process, over two years, and a similar approach will be necessary to work towards sustainable urbanization, which can only be reached if citizens and all levels of government are part of the New Urban Agenda and its implementation. That level of engagement was seen throughout the Conference, with over 30,000 representatives and individuals, where the aim was to create a space that allowed new partnerships, alliances, networks, synergies and cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

81. The Conference comprised a large number of meetings and events: eight plenary meetings; six high-level round tables; four assemblies; 16 stakeholder round tables; 10 policy dialogues; 22 special sessions; three urban talks; one urban journalism academy; 59 United Nations events; 14 talks with the United Nations; 15 United Nations exhibitions; 42 Habitat III Village projects; 218 side events; 114 networking events; 18 training events and 29 parallel events. As part of the Conference, there were also 144 exhibition booths, with a cumulative attendance of 50,588 participants.

82. The General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III convened more than 1,100 individual organizations, with connections to over 58,000 networks, as part of the work on sustainable urban development during the Habitat III preparatory process and the Conference itself. The 16 Partner Constituent Groups of the General Assembly of Partners collaborated on and proposed speakers and content for the 16 stakeholder round tables that took place at the Conference.

83. During the Conference, 16 seats were allocated to the stakeholders in the plenaries and high-level round tables, so as to enable equal representation of each of the Partner Constituent Groups of the General Assembly of Partners. The participation of the Partner Constituent Groups representing older persons and persons with disabilities was also a landmark achievement of the Habitat III process.

B. Regional, subnational and local government presence

84. Habitat III promised to bring together Member States and a diversity of urban actors, particularly local authorities, with a goal of generating and mobilizing support for the New Urban Agenda. It was also an opportunity to strengthen the partnerships between the United Nations and the regional, subnational and local governments. The full involvement of subnational, local and regional authorities as policy developers, and not simply as implementers, enabled the creation of an inclusive Habitat III Agenda, and will be vital for the achievement of sustainable urban development in the future.

85. The Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments was attended by roughly 2,000 participants, representing different global networks of local and regional governments. Local and subnational leaders made statements on their shared commitments to carry forward the ideas and principles of the New Urban Agenda, while localizing and monitoring its progress on an ongoing basis.

The shared statement also conveyed the intention of setting the expectation that the New Urban Agenda would mark a new era of engagement between global processes and local and regional governments.

86. In addition, Habitat III partnered with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments as a coordination mechanism that brought together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy relating to international policy processes, particularly the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

87. As an organized and consolidated constituency that had been collaborating through joint advocacy to ensure local decision-makers were included in other processes, the Global Taskforce was engaged with the negotiation of the New Urban Agenda from the beginning of the Habitat III process.

C. Unprecedented inter-agency engagement

88. Habitat III offered a unique opportunity for the United Nations system to meet with government representatives, mayors, local leaders and a range of urban stakeholders all over the world to discuss the challenge of how cities and towns can be better planned and managed, and how all stakeholders could fulfil their role as drivers of sustainable development. A United Nations task team on Habitat III was established to mobilize the United Nations system as a whole within the work of the preparatory process, and played a prominent role as an inter-agency task force that cooperated on the preparatory process for the Conference.

89. The Conference maximized participation of all stakeholders and focused on implementation of the principles, policies and actions for sustainable urban development, including through a "One United Nations" pavilion, to showcase and enable collaboration among entities of the United Nations and to highlight different United Nations entities' innovations and integrate them into the narrative of the New Urban Agenda. The pavilion provided a space dedicated to the United Nations system and its activities regarding sustainable urban development, with the organization of 59 events by 35 different United Nations system entities, as well as 15 exhibitions and 14 networking meetings. Those events highlighted key elements needed for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, showcasing the perspectives of the different United Nations system entities.

D. Advocacy and outreach relating to Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

90. The outreach and advocacy mechanisms relating to Habitat III aimed to keep relevant identified audiences informed of the identity and purpose of the Conference, of the compelling need for the New Urban Agenda and, ultimately, of the call to action for those audiences to engage in the process leading to the formulation of the New Urban Agenda and to participate in the Conference. All official documents, reports and publications were translated into the six official languages of the United Nations.

91. During the whole process relating to Habitat III, a series of events, such as national urban forums, urban breakfasts, urban walks and urban journalism academies, were organized.

92. After the Conference, a total of 18 national urban forums were convened, in collaboration with partners, in 2017. A total of 51 urban breakfasts were organized in the run-up to the Conference, with an average of 70 representatives attending

each one, resulting in an approximate total of 3,570 people attending an urban breakfast during the Habitat III process.

93. The Habitat III urban walks took place before and after the intergovernmental negotiations and informal hearings, in several cities of the world, to showcase examples of positive urban design, planning and governance, in those cities, as well as related challenges, to an audience involved in the Habitat III process, in order to bring successful planning tools to their attention and to spark discussion on urban planning and the challenges of sustainable urban development.

94. The urban journalism academy was an innovative initiative to train journalists and media professionals interested or involved in urban development with reference to the social and economic issues facing cities in the twenty-first century. The series started in 2014, as a follow-up to the process of elaborating the New Urban Agenda. From 2014 to 2016, over 24 academies were held all over the world and more than 1,000 journalists and 137 speakers were trained in 21 cities.

E. Legacy of the Conference

95. As part of the legacy of and follow-up to Habitat III, the Conference secretariat has continued to work with such partners as Member States, stakeholders in the General Assembly of Partners and the United Nations system, by coordinating several activities and meetings related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Such activities have included: cross-cutting expert group meetings with stakeholders and the United Nations task team on Habitat III, national urban forums and urban breakfasts.

96. The New Urban Agenda has also been translated into several languages, apart from the six official languages of the United Nations, such as Albanian, Czech, German, Indonesian, Malaysian and Portuguese. Braille and audio versions will also be available, so as to ensure access for all persons to the text.

97. A global report on Habitat III would collect all the information on the Conference, its legacy and the preparatory process.

F. Independent assessment of UN-Habitat

98. As part of the follow-up to and review of the outcome of Habitat III, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, Member States requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat. The result of the assessment will be a report containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-habitat, to analyse: (a) the normative and operational mandate of UN-Habitat; (b) the governance structure of UN-Habitat, for more effective, accountable and transparent decision-making; (c) the work of UN-Habitat with national, subnational and local governments and with relevant stakeholders in order to harness the full potential of partnerships; and (d) the financial capability of UN-Habitat. The report of the High-level Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance the Effectiveness of UN-Habitat (A/71/1006) will be presented to the General Assembly at a two-day high-level meeting, convened by the President of the General Assembly, to be held on 5 and 6 September 2017, in New York.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

99. In the light of the New Urban Agenda, Member States are encouraged to:

(a) Provide UN-Habitat with strong political support, including financial support, to ensure coherence and collaboration on urban issues across the United Nations system;

(b) Support UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities;

(c) Incorporate a robust implementation, coordination and monitoring mechanism with inbuilt evaluation for the New Urban Agenda that would bring opportunities and assist Member States in meeting the challenges of urbanization and poverty;

(d) Ensure that the innovative and inclusive approach of the Habitat III preparatory process and the Conference itself is kept in the report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, coordinated by UN-Habitat, opening spaces to stakeholders who were involved in and contributed to the New Urban Agenda, based on the legacy of those platforms and mechanisms;

(e) Continue to build partnerships with relevant partners, such as subnational and local governments, to strengthen their effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.